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REMARKS

Claims 1-15 have been canceled. Claims 16-34 remain pending in the application.

Applicants amend claims 16-19, 21-22, 27-29, and 31-34 for clarification. No new matter has been added.

Applicants, again, acknowledge with appreciation the Examiner's allowance of claims 20, 23-26, and 30.

Applicants respectfully request that the Examiner acknowledge that all certified copies of priority documents for this application have been received.

Claims 16-19, 21-22, 27-29 and 31-34 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e) as being anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 5,751,720 to Uematsu et al. Applicants amend the claims in a good faith effort to clarify the invention and distinguished from the cited reference, and respectfully traverse the rejection.

Again, the cited portions of Uematsu et al. only include description of identifying pointer sizes in a SDH/SONET transmission system for VC path management. The Pointer Size Judging Circuit 21 illustrated in Fig. 11 of Uematsu et al.—and cited by the Examiner in the Advisory Action—merely processes an AU pointer to judge the size of the AU pointer itself for matching with an externally-set AU Pointer Size. Please see, e.g., the input to Assigned AU-Size Map Hold Circuit 24 in Fig. 11 of Uematsu et al. Please also see col. 7, lines 31-57 of Uematsu et al. for description of the pointer processing for matching pointer sizes.

In other words, Uematsu et al., as cited and relied upon by the Examiner, do not disclose,

“[a]n apparatus comprising:
a pointer processing section for processing a pointer
contained in a transmission frame including one or more channel
data; and

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a frame identification section identifying a frame size defined by a scheme of multiplexing one or more of the transmission frames based on a change in a pointer processing result of said pointer processing section for each of the channel data ," as recited in claim 16. (Emphasis added)

Accordingly, Applicant respectfully submits that claim 16 is patentable over Uematsu et al. for at least the foregoing reasons. Claims 17-19, 21-22, 27-29, and 31-34 also incorporate features of processing pointers for attributes of transmission frames, which correspond to those of claim 16 cited above. Therefore, they are patentable over Uematsu et al. for at least the same reasons.

The above statements on the disclosures in the cited reference represent the present opinions of the undersigned attorney. The Examiner is respectfully requested to specifically indicate those portions of the reference that provide the basis for a view contrary to any of the above-stated opinions.

In view of the remarks set forth above, this application is in condition for allowance which action is respectfully requested. However, if for any reason the Examiner should consider this application not to be in condition for allowance, the Examiner is respectfully requested to telephone the undersigned attorney at the number listed below prior to issuing a further Action.

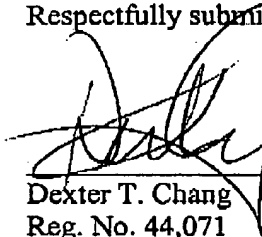
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Any fee due with this paper may be charged to Deposit Account No. 50-1290.

Respectfully submitted,



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